

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, wherein said particulate filter is a wall-flow particulate filter comprising a partition wall having pores, said partition wall carrying a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub> on the exhaust gas upstream side surface thereof, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich;

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub> arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter, which catalytic apparatus carries a catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

control means for making the air-fuel ratio in said catalytic apparatus rich to release NO<sub>x</sub> from said catalyst of said catalytic apparatus to purify the released NO<sub>x</sub> by reduction, and making the air-fuel ratio in the particulate filter rich to release NO<sub>x</sub> from said catalyst of said particulate filter to purify the released NO<sub>x</sub> by reduction so that said catalyst of said particulate filter also releases active-oxygen from said catalyst of said particulate filter to oxidize and remove the particulates trapped on said particulate filter by the released active-oxygen without producing luminous flame without further elevating the temperature of the trapped particulates to ignite and burn the trapped particulates.

2-3. (Canceled)